REMARKS

In the Office Action, dated March 31, 2006, the Examiner states that Claims 1-10 are pending, and Claims 1-10 are rejected. By the present Amendment, Applicant amends the claims.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-4 are rejected in view of Shirai et al. (JP 06-239040). This rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of Claims 1-5.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) / §103(a) as being anticipated by / obvious over Dontula et al. (US 6,514,659). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and traverses this rejection.

With respect to the pending Claims 6-10, the rejection states that "This patent teaches a thermal transfer image receiving sheet which can be made by extruding a formable insulation layer between two base layers". However, there are only two methods disclosed, as described below:

1) A method in which a form core (corresponds to the thermal insulation layer in the present invention) and a flange sheet (corresponds to the base material sheet and the base material film in the present invention) are formed as sheets, and the form core and the flange sheet are adhered using adhesive.

2) A method in which raw material of the form core and the raw material of the flange sheet are extruded together to form a sheet.

Even in the last paragraph of column 7 of this reference, it is described that the element is formed by an "extrusion laminating process" which has a similar name as "extrusion-molding" in the present invention. The extrusion laminating process refers to the above method 1), because it is described as follows in the same paragraph.

- Extrusion laminating is carried out by bringing together the paper or polymeric flange sheets of the invention and the foam core with application of an adhesive between them.
- The adhesive may be applied to either the flange sheets or the foam core prior to their being brought into the nip.
- In a preferred form, the adhesive is applied into the nip simultaneously with the flange sheets and the foam core.

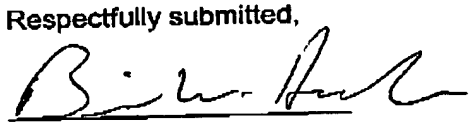
From those descriptions, the material extruded is an adhesive in "the extrusion laminating process" of Dontula. If a form core is excluded, like in the present invention, there is no need to use the adhesive.

On the other hand, in the "extrusion-molding" in the present invention, the base material sheet and the base material film are formed as sheets, and between them, heated molten resin containing at least one of a foaming agent and hollow bodies is extruded. In the present invention, adhesive does not need to be used because the resin itself functions as an adhesive. Therefore, the solvent type adhesive which is conventionally used for adhering the foaming film to the base material sheet can be excluded, and the influence of the residual solvent can be eliminated.

Accordingly, the Applicant considers that Claim 6, as well as depending Claims 7-10, are not anticipated by or obvious from the disclosure of Dontula.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



August 30, 2006
Date

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